

Lincoln Elementary



Understanding the Third Grade Retention Law

At the end of the school year, your child will take statewide assessments called the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program or TCAP. These are important measures of your child's performance with ELA content and their ability to demonstrate that they have learned the necessary standards. **State law does require your child to pass the grade reading TCAP.** It's possible a student may have passing grades in ELA at the end of the school year but may not be considered proficient on the statewide test.

What does this mean for 3rd grade students?

If a 3rd grade student is not proficient on the ELA portion of the statewide test, the student will be retained according to the state law. Under specific circumstances, The Tennessee Department of Education gives some options for non-proficient students to be promoted, but we first focus on helping your child become proficient on the test.

What is Lincoln doing to help scholars?

As is always our focus, we will help prepare and support students. JMCSS 3rd grade teachers are dedicated to helping students succeed, and we've been working hard to teach them the state standards and help them become better readers. Our teachers do an excellent job preparing students, and parents should expect no less. **However, state law says it's the student's individual performance on the test that will determine whether they advance to the next grade level, a decision that is ultimately decided by the state and not locally.**

A Home Literacy report will be sent home in January to all 3rd grade families to outline their child's progress, which will help families understand how their child is progressing in their reading ability. Staying engaged in your child's learning is the most impactful thing a parent can do to help prevent retention. If you feel like your child is struggling and may need additional support, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or principal. For additional information about 3rd grade retention law, please visit jmcass.org or the Tennessee Department of Education.